

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

7:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman

Kellie DiPalma, Vice-Chairman

Liana Fenton

Paul Mankofsky

Member Absent:

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Theresa Spengler. Administrative staff members present were Gail Abromitis, Stephen Ponte, Michelle Fonseca, and Michael Mancieri.

A Moment of Silence was observed for the victims of the Navy Yard shooting.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“MOST – Middletown’s Out of School Time Learning Program”

Mrs. Deanne Reilly updated the committee on the MOST Program. All students with Personal Literacy Plan’s or Personal Math Plans were invited to attend. Specific target goals for each child were developed.

The ratio was 1 teacher to about 7 students. This was an intensive four week program, four days per week for 1.5 to 3 hours. 117 students participated in program. In literacy, 33% met their target and 73% demonstrated growth. In math, 48% met their target and 83% demonstrated growth. The next steps are the after school intervention sessions for K-12 and to continue to target literacy and math supports.

The jumpstart for the Capstone Program was very successful, as was the credit recovery program at Middletown High School.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

No “Proclamations/Awards” for September 19, 2013.

(Minutes of the September 19, 2013 School Committee Meeting, Page Two)

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for September 19, 2013.

Mrs. Kraeger will invite the Student Council to attend the meeting in October to update the committee on upcoming events.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Back to School Nights**
- Donations**
- Building Inspection Reports**

- New Chartwells President**
- McKinney Vento Grant Approval**
- Withdrawal from Snow Removal Contract**
- MHS Accreditation in 2015**
- Letter from Department of Navy that Starbase Atlantis will no longer be funded**
- Community Flu Clinic on October 8th from 4-7 at Gaudet School**

CORRESPONDENCE

Received a letter from Clara Maurer requesting financial assistant to help offset the cost of attending the All-National Honors Mixed Voice Chorus festival to be held October 27-30, 2013 in Nashville, Tennessee.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To accept the communication and move to an action item. Unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of August 22, 2013 Executive Session.**

•Approval of Minutes of August 22, 2013 School Committee Meeting

August Monthly Vouchers

Voucher Number Date Total

1054 9/9/2013 \$150.00

1053 9/9/2013 \$29,145.38

1046 9/4/2013 \$48,604.25

1045 9/4/2013 \$150.00

1044 8/30/2013 \$300.00

1043 8/28/2013 \$1,368.00

1042 8/26/2013 \$161.19

1041 8/26/2013 \$110.00

1040 8/26/2013 \$122,195.01

1039 8/26/2013 \$20,387.71

1038 8/26/2013 \$22,821.28

1032 8/21/2013 \$1,639.07

1031 8/16/2013 \$15,916.80

\$262,948.69

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

Heather Carney .6 French Teacher, Middletown High School

Donna Murphy Middle School Lead Teacher

Deb O'Bryan Middle School Lead Teacher

APPOINTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

Amanda Stanford Grade 7 ELA Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

Dena Silvia .5 Kindergarten Teacher, Forest Avenue School (One Year Only)

Trina Bona Grade 8 Social Studies Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School (One Year Only)

APPOINTMENT AS OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

Regina Shers 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

Mary Colaneri Lead Teacher, Forest Avenue School

Leslie Gilman Lead Teacher, Aquidneck School

Jennifer Holubesco Lead Teacher, Grade Four, J.H. Gaudet Learning Academy

ASSIGNMENTS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

Amy Dunn From Grade 4, J.H. Gaudet School, to Grade 6, J.H. Gaudet School

Shannon Dugan From Special Education, Aquidneck School, to Grade 2, Aquidneck School

Tara Mellow From Grade 1, Aquidneck School, to Grade 1, Forest Avenue School

COACHING APPOINTMENT AS OF AUGUST 27, 2013

Leah Rosin-Pritchard Girls' Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach

COACHING APPOINTMENT AS OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

Paula Guarino Gaudet Cross Country Co-Coach

Jen Cavallaro Gaudet Cross Country Co-Coach

(Minutes of the September 19, 2013 School Committee Meeting, Page Four)

ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

Joshua Beagan J.H. Gaudet Tech Education/Robotics Club Advisor

Joshua Beagan J.H. Gaudet Yearbook Advisor

Ronald Dumais J.H. Gaudet Computer Club Advisor

Jonathan Paquette J.H. Gaudet Art Club Co-Advisor

Jill Armstrong J.H. Gaudet Art Club Co-Advisor

Jen Vaillancourt All-State Choral Director

Philip Statser All-State Band Director

David Fontaine Mock Trial Advisor

David Fontaine VHS Coordinator

Jennifer Haskell Freshman Class Advisor
Amy Kalif Junior Class Co-Advisor
Rachelle Myllymaki Junior Class Co-Advisor
Michele Smith Senior Class Co-Advisor
MaryBeth Murphy Senior Class Co-Advisor
Maria Dowler Yearbook Advisor
Chris Richards Tempo Director
Kevin Zahm Fall/Spring Drama Club Advisor
Steve Fagan Math League Advisor
Lisa O'Brien Newspaper Advisor
Philip Statser Band Director
Jen Vaillancourt Choral Director
Paige Kirwin-Clair Community Service Advisor

ACTION ITEMS

CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approved \$100 to fund Clara Maurer's trip to Nashville, Tennessee, to attend the All-National Honors Mixed Voice Chorus festival to be held October 27-30, 2013. Unanimous vote.

PEST CONTROL BID

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the Pest Control Bid to Terminex. Unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MIDDLE SCHOOL LEAD TEACHER JOB DESCRIPTION, 2nd READING

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Middle School Lead Teacher Job Description, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

(Minutes of the September 19, 2013 School Committee Meeting, Page Five)

OLD BUSINESS

•School Opening 2013-2014 – As of September 17th, there are 2273 students in Middletown Schools. Due to budget reductions, one bus was eliminated, which resulted in the loss of 40 bus stops. After reviewing the bus stops, 20 were reinstated. Ocean State Transit has been outstanding to work with. A segment on Channel 10 regarding overcrowded busses was falsely reported. Mr. Mancieri said the capacity of the busses is 77, and busses have not transported with more than 70 students. An extra bus monitor rides on the busses that are more active. The bus company had an extra bus standing by in case any bus was overcrowded.

There are still a number of positions that need to be filled. Long term substitutes are in positions and all teachers are certified.

Mrs. Kraeger thanked all for a great opening.

NEW BUSINESS

•Wachusett Regional School District Visit – Mr. Mankofsky visited Wachusett Regional School District. This school has a high demand for academics and special education programs. In this regional district, each town gets an allocation and then pays what the regional school board tells them to pay. Middletown would need to come up with a governance model that is suitable to all.

Mrs. Spengler addressed the difference in funding formulas between Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Additionally, Massachusetts is involved in “Pay to Play”. She addressed some major factors that suggest that Wachusett might not be a “model”. Parents in that district are also required to pay for the music program. The district is reimbursed 75% for special education students. Wachusett School District recently reported that they were in “catastrophic fiscal crisis”.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown is developing a model of a regional high school. There was concern that he is not a certified educator. It is time wasting to develop a model without input from other districts.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•**CURRICULUM** – Mrs. Savastano reported that they have begun ELA unit development with grade 7 & 8 teachers, aligning to common core and using recently released PARCC assessment info. On Monday, administrators attended the EBEC professional development and on Tuesday, 180 teachers attended. The remaining amount of the Race To The Top funds can be used. October will be last NECAP administration for students in grades 3-8. Grade 11 will continue for a couple more years. NWEA local screening will be administrated in October. All schools in the state will have a pilot for PARCC. In the CRP, there is a list of what Title 1, 2 and 3 funds are being allocated for this year. The bulk supports professional development, ELL students and Special Education students.

(Minutes of the September 19, 2013 School Committee Meeting, Page Six)

•**FINANCIAL** – There was discussion about RIDE's Education Data Collection Specifications for Personnel Funding. This is a new submission that will begin at the beginning of the 2013-14 school year. This data provides the ability to link staff and finances. At the beginning of last school year, RIDE instituted Personnel Assignment

Submission, which is updated as necessary due to staff changes. Changes for this year include submitting Personnel Assignment Submissions for all certified and non-certified staff including educators, and paraprofessionals. This submission data describes each assignment for all staff that are currently in each district.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To extend the School Committee past 9:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

•FACILITIES – Mr. Collins reported that the project updates are listed in the Facilities Report.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Spengler attended the Middletown High School and Gaudet School orientations. They were very organized and buildings were very clean.

Ms. DiPalma attended a Middletown Prevention Coalition Meeting. The Charter requires a school department member.

Middletown High School will be featured on Channel 10's "Friday Night Lights" on September 27th.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 9:17 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk